

VA EDUCATION AND TRAINING BUDGET

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held an oversight hearing on the VA's Fiscal Year 2007 budget request for the education, vocational rehabilitation, and loan guaranty programs. Testimony was heard from Ron Aument, Deputy Under Secretary, Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs; and representatives of veterans organizations.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held an oversight hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2007 budget request for the Veterans Health Administration. Testimony was heard from Jonathan B. Perlin, M.D., Under Secretary, Health, Department of Veterans Affairs; and representatives of veterans organizations.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D88)

H.R. 4519, to amend the Public Health Service Act to extend funding for the operation of State high risk health insurance pools. Signed on February 10, 2006. (Public Law 109-172)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 15, 2006**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to resume hearings to examine the progress of construction on the Capitol Visitor Center, 10:30 a.m., SD-138.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Preston M. Geren, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of the Army, Michael L. Dominguez, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, James I. Finley, of Minnesota, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, and Thomas P. D'Agostino, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine rebuilding needs in Hurricane Katrina-impacted areas, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine understanding the causes and solutions to addressing the Federal tax gap, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine video franchising, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine developments in nanotechnology, 2:30 p.m., SD-562.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 2197, to improve the global competitiveness of the United States in science and energy technology, to strengthen basic research programs at the Department of Energy, and to provide support for mathematics and science education at all levels through the resources available through the Department of Energy, including at the National Laboratories, 10:30 a.m., SD-366.

Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to review the progress made on the development of interim and long-term plans for use of fire retardant aircraft in Federal wildfire suppression operations, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider the nominations of Terrence L. Bracy, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation, and Dennis Bottorff, Susan Richardson Williams, and William B. Sansom, all of Tennessee, Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, Howard A. Thrailkill, of Alabama, and Donald R. DePriest, of Mississippi, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 9:30 a.m., SD-628.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for EPA, 9:35 a.m., SD-628.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for foreign affairs; and, if a quorum is present, consider and vote on the nominations of Claudia A. McMurray, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Bradford R. Higgins, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Resource Management and Chief Financial Officer, Department of State, Jackie Wolcott Sanders, of Virginia, to be U.S. Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be U.S. Alternate Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as U.S. Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, Janet Ann Sanderson, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti, Bernadette Mary Allen, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, Patricia Newton Moller, of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Burundi, Steven Alan Browning, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda, Robert Weisberg, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Congo, Michael W. Michalak, of Michigan, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Senior Official to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, Janice L. Jacobs, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Jeanine E. Jackson, of Wyoming, to be Ambassador to Burkina Faso, James D. McGee, of Florida, to

serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of Comoros; Kristie A. Kenney, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, Gary A. Grappo, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Patricia A. Butenis, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Donald T. Bliss, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Ben S. Bernanke, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Monetary Fund, International Monetary Fund; and 2 Foreign Service Officer promotion lists received in the Senate on December 13 and December 14, 2005, respectively, 9:45 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine communication and mine safety technology issues, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to continue hearings to examine Hurricane Katrina response issues, focusing on the Homeland Security Department's preparation and response, 11:15 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen G. Larson, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Jack Zouhary, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, and John F. Clark, of Virginia, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on USDA, 9:30 a.m., 2362 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on DHS Management and Operations, 2:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, an oversight hearing on Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 10 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, on DOD Budget Overview, 10 a.m., H-143 Capitol, and on Quality of Life—Senior Enlisted, 1:30 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization budget request from the Department of the Army, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, joint hearing on the Able Danger program, 2:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on Domestic Entitlements and the Federal Budget, 2 p.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, hearing entitled "The Administration's FY '07 Health Care Priorities," 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled "The Law and Economics of Interchange Fees," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, hearing to receive the Federal Reserve Board's semiannual monetary policy report, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on Energy and Resources, hearing entitled "Meythol Bromide: Are U.S. Interests Being Served by the Critical User Exemption Process?" 2 p.m., 2203 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census, hearing entitled "Living in America: Is Our Public Housing System Up to the Challenges of the 21st Century?" 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cybersecurity, hearing entitled "The President's Fiscal Year Budget: Coast Guard Programs Impacting Maritime Border Security," 5 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology, hearing entitled "The State of Interoperable Communications: Perspectives from the Field," 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment, hearing entitled "The President's Proposed FY07 Budget for the Department of Homeland Security: The Office of Intelligence and Analysis," 2:30 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations and the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled "The Internet in China: A Tool for Freedom or Suppression?" 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, to mark up the following measures: H. Res. 643, Directing the Attorney General to submit to the House of Representatives all documents in the possession of the Attorney General relating to warrantless electronic surveillance of telephone conversations and electronic communications of persons in the United States conducted by the National Security Agency; H. Res. 644, Requesting the President and directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of those officials relating to the authorization of electronic surveillance of citizens of the United States without court approved warrants; H.R. 2829, Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2005; H.R. 3505, Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2005; H. Con. Res. 316, Raising awareness and encouraging prevention of stalking by establishing January 2006 as "National Stalking Awareness Month;" H. Res. 357, Honoring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; and H.R. 4709, Law Enforcement and Phone Privacy Protection Act of 2006, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, to mark up H.R. 1704, Second Chance Act of 2005; followed by an oversight hearing of the Bureau of

Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) Part 1: Gun Show Enforcement, 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, oversight hearing entitled “The National Park Service 2006 Draft Management Policies and proposed changes to Director’s Order 21,” 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, hearing on An Overview of the Federal R&D Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, oversight hearing on Commercial Jet Fuel Supply: Impact and Cost on the U.S. Airline Industry, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines, oversight hearing on How the FY 2007 Budget Proposal Impacts SAFETEA LU, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, hearing on annual legislative agenda, views and priorities for veterans organizations, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, to continue hearings on President Bush’s Budget proposals for fiscal year 2007; and to consider Draft Views and Estimates for submission to the Committee on the Budget; 10:30 a.m., and to hold a hearing on President Bush’s trade agenda, 1:30 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Oversight, executive, Briefing on The Intelligence Value of Interrogation, 12 p.m., H-405 Capitol.

Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina, to approve the Select Committee Report, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.